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U.S. Application No. 09/926,598
Amendment

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. ~~(Currently Amended) A method for analyzing data and determining the timing of~~ timings for buy/sell tips as an aid to making an investment decision signals for tradeable assets or securities including the steps of ~~financial instruments, the method comprising:~~

~~(a) — receiving data on a number of specified assets or securities; identifying one or more instruments, each of the one or more instruments comprising at least a financial asset or at least a tradeable security;~~

~~(b) — determining [the] technical strength of each asset or security from each of the one or more instruments based on recorded market characteristics of that security associated with that instrument, the market characteristics comprising as a function of the one or more trade volumes trade of the security, [the] one or more trade prices price at which the trade took place, and one or more directions of movements of trade prices; the direction of movement of the price, and ranking the technical strength of each asset or security;~~

~~(c) — selecting tradeable asset or securities having a ranking or value of technical strength above a predetermined ranking or value; ranking the one or more instruments based upon their technical strengths;~~

~~(d) — determining [the] fundamental strength of these selected assets or securities each of the one or more instruments; based on one or more of a group of selected variables; and ranking these selected assets or securities, based on the fundamental strength, and~~

ranking the one or more instruments based upon their fundamental strengths; and

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(e) ~~selecting or facilitating the selection of securities which are suitable for purchasing and/or securities which are suitable for selling generating at least a buy signal or at least a sell signal for at least one of the one or more instruments based on the technical strength ranking and the fundamental strength ranking combination of the technical strength and fundamental strength of the security.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more trade volumes comprising [a] at least one volume index which is calculated as a ratio of actual trade volume over a length of time to average trade volume over that length of time.

$$\text{Volume Index} = \frac{\text{Actual volume over a length of time}}{\text{average volume/over the same length of time}}$$

3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 2 wherein a table is created listing the volume index one or more volume indices over a predetermined period of time of the one or more instruments, respectively, of each tradeable asset or security in a selected group of tradeable assets or securities in ascending or descending order over a predetermined period of time.

4. (Cancel)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [4] 2, wherein an instrument from the one or more instruments asset or security having a combination of [a] high volume index and [an] upward relative price movement is ~~defined as~~ determined to be having [an] upward technical strength or momentum up or both.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [4] 2, wherein an instrument from the one or more instruments asset or security having [a] high volume index and [a]

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downward relative price movement relative to the table of volume indices is defined as is determined to be having [a] downward technical strength or momentum down or both.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to of claim 1, wherein the fundamental strength is determined based on at least one fundamental strength characteristic is selected depending on the at least market sector [and] or at least possible market capitalization capitalisation and the asset or securities selected on the basis of technical strength are marked according to said fundamental strength characteristic.

8. (Cancel)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A data processing system including a means to receive data on a number of specified assets or securities;~~
~~— a data processing means programmable to use at least one of plurality of filter criteria to analyze said data in accordance with the method of any one of claims 1-5, and~~
~~— a means to output the results of the analysis.~~

A system for determining timings for buy/sell signals for financial instruments,
the system comprising:

data processing means adapted to

identify one or more instruments, each of the one or more instruments
comprising at least a financial asset or at least a tradeable security,

determine technical strength of each of the one or more instruments
based on market characteristics associated with that instrument, the market
characteristics comprising one or more trade volumes, one or more trade prices and one
or more directions of movements of trade prices,

rank the one or more instruments based upon their technical strengths,
determine fundamental strength of each of the one or more instruments,

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rank the one or more instruments based upon their fundamental strengths,
and
generate at least a buy signal or at least a sell signal for at least one of the
one or more instruments based upon the technical strength ranking and the fundamental
strength ranking; and
means for outputting information associated with the generated signal.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer program for carrying out the method~~
~~in accordance with any one of claims 1-8~~ A computer readable medium which stores
instructions executable by at least one processor to determine timings for buy/sell
signals for financial instruments by performing steps of:

identifying one or more instruments, each of the one or more instruments
comprising at least a financial asset or at least a tradeable security;

determining technical strength of each of the one or more instruments based on
recorded characteristics associated with that instrument, the market characteristics
comprising one or more trade volumes, one or more trade prices and one or more
directions of movements of trade prices;

ranking the one or more instruments based upon their technical strengths;
determining fundamental strength of each of the one or more instruments;
ranking the one or more instruments based upon their fundamental strengths; and
generating at least a buy signal or at least a sell signal for at least one of the one
or more instruments based upon the technical strength ranking and the fundamental
strength ranking.

Cancel claims 11 – 30.

31. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying at least a
subset of the one or more instruments for which technical strength meets a
predetermined threshold.

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32. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining the fundamental strength comprises:

comparing the one or more of the group of the selected variables with one or more predetermined benchmarks, respectively.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 further comprising determining whether the instrument exhibits bullish or bearish behavior based upon the comparing.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the group of the selected variables for the determining the fundamental strength comprises:

(i) Dividend yield.

35. (New and Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein the group of the selected variables for the determining the fundamental strength comprises:

(ii) Price/NTA

(iii) P/E

(iv) P/EBITDAPS

(v) P/EVAPS

(vi) Discount to Historical High or Premium to Historical Low

(vii) Gearing level

(viii) Discount/Premium to Brokers' Recommended Buy/Sell Price

(ix) Price to sales per asset or security

(x) Market capitalization

(xi) Stocks which are market leaders or have a position of market dominance or high market share in their respective industry/principal market

(xii) Stocks which had return on shareholders' equity greater than amount say 15% per annum or 25% per annum in last/X financial year or financial quarter

(xiii) Stocks which have high quality credit rating from rating agencies

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- (xiv) Identify stocks as per pre-selected categories of credit ratings
- (xv) Stocks which have low or high (on a relative basis) P/CFPS where CFPS is per share free cash flow defined by earnings plus depreciation minus capital spending minus dividends
- (xvi) Stocks which have low volatility or high volatility
- (xvii) Stocks where top executives or top 20 shareholders have significant shareholding in the company
- (xviii) Stocks which are at a premium/discount to industry group or an overall market based on various criteria
- (xix) Stocks which have high/low gross margins
- (xx) Stocks which have a debt level less/more than industry benchmark or S&P 500 or any other appropriate benchmarks
- (xxi) Stocks which have a good/erratic track record of profitability
- (xxii) Stocks where inventories are declining/increasing
- (xxiii) Stocks where major new products/services have been launched or where new management is in place
- (xxiv) Stocks where insiders are selling more than average or where insiders are buying more than average. Identify stocks where institutional sponsors are increasing/decreasing
- (xxv) Stocks where there is growth/decline in physical volumes of sales or production or inventories
- (xxvi) Stocks where profit margins are rising (buy opportunity/signal/tip) or falling (sell opportunity/signal/tip), stocks where return on capital employed is higher/lower than an industry benchmark and stocks where earnings/revenue is higher/lower than an industry benchmark
- (xxvii) Stocks which have a higher/lower than benchmark/average growth in sales/profits/physical volumes/inventories

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(xxviii) Stockmarkets of countries where economic conditions are better or worse than before. For inter-stockmarket comparisons volume indicator in value or dollar terms may be used for computation of volume index

(xxix) Stocks which have a low cost structure defined by operating cost per unit produced or by other criteria

(xxx) Stocks which have higher than average growth rate in earnings per share (EPS), net tangible asset backing per share (NTA), gross cash flow per share (GCF), dividends per share (DPS)

(xxxi) Among certain sectors like bank stocks certain specific criteria may be created eg. Total Income/Average Assets, Operating Costs/Average Assets, Bad Debt Charge/Average Assets. These criteria may be stated as higher or lower relative to a benchmark.

(xxxii) Stocks of distressed firms with negative earnings or negative book values

(xxxiii) Make international comparisons of relativities as per various criteria spelt out and as per criteria which may be added/introduced later

(xxxiv) Other criteria for value selection like Benjamin Graham's criteria or 200-day moving average comparisons or any other criteria of selection may be introduced in the program.